

JUNE 2, 2013

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St. Augustine School:



Before the first week of school in the exciting month of June begins, I wanted to take a few minutes to celebrate some of our recent experiences, inform you of upcoming events and encourage you to participate in as many school-related “happenings” as possible.

I’m certain we always say it, but May was extraordinarily busy - beginning with the central reason that we live and breathe here - our Faith. Through the Parish’s celebration of our Grade 2’s **First Communion**, we again were witnesses to the power of Faith, the absolute joy in the children in their being welcomed to the Table of the Lord, and were blessed by a beautiful reception hosted by the Grade 1 parents. Three days later, our Parish’s Grade 7 students were **Confirmed** – again a beautiful Sacrament conferred this year by our Pastor, *Father Terry*. The evening Mass and celebration of this last Sacrament of Initiation proved to be a memorable evening for all who attended – and again, we were blessed by the generosity of two distinct groups: The staff comprised the choir and the music at both Sacraments was beautiful and uplifting, and the Grade 6 parents hosted a lovely reception in the Parish Centre.

Central to May for us this spring was our **Camp** experiences – the Primary children LOVED their “**primary camp day**” – as evidenced on the website – and we who were privileged to go to Camp with the Intermediate

students, loved the opportunity to have these events in late May. Certainly, the delight, the learning and the growth that takes place through these types of experiences can only happen through two things: the generosity of staff with their time and talent, and the financial support of the PEC and parents. All in all – huge successes, to be repeated again next year!

We were able to host an appreciation dinner for the PTT leadership team – and express in person our gratitude for their leadership, service and commitment to this aspect of our Faith and Foundation campaign... thank you to all!

The teachers have planned for many **field trip** experiences this spring, and students have travelled far and wide to explore varying “sites” which have enhanced the delivery of the curriculum at their grade level. Actually, last weekend I was shopping at the local IGA, and as I rolled past the customer service desk, “something” on the back wall caught my eye. Lo and behold, there was a fabulous display of Kindy letters that they had written to the IGA team that had hosted their visit to the store - so sweet, and a great opportunity was taken by their teacher to extend the experience into an art and language activity.

The Grade 6 class hosted an **International Luncheon** to which 78 adults came and shared in the marvelous



foods from the cultures that they belong to, and the little grade ones had an exciting and creative field trip to the City Farmer, over on Maple Street. Earlier, the Grade 5's travelled to the mine up in Squamish to explore that historical part of British Columbia history and the Grade 7's spend the day in the Municipal Courts learning about the justice system in British Columbia and its challenges.

I want to thank the teachers for their creativity and commitment of time to plan for and extend their classes experiences – these are but a very few of the experiences that we've been able to offer the children in this last term of school. **Also, thank you to all the parents** who take time from their busy schedules to support these experiences as drivers or supervisors.

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our Parent Evening last Thursday, on the topic of Human Growth and Development. Miss O'Hara created and presented a great presentation, and over 48 parents attended and affirmed that this topic was an important one for them. (Although planned for Intermediate families, a number of Primary parents also attended – thank you one and all!)

We are very pleased to announce to you that the Parish Education Committee has found a wonderful candidate to follow *Mrs. Fourchalk*, who will fully retire in June, and begin the process that will also allow *Mrs. Luttrell* to transition to her full retirement in June of 2014.

We welcome to our Administrative team ***Mrs. Heidi Battiston***, a parishioner at St. Augustine's and a parent whose two daughters will be in our School in September. Mrs. Battiston is an exceptionally well-qualified woman who brings many gifts to our School, including a passion for her Faith, a love of the school, a strong Administrative background and advanced education in her own right. Because of Mrs. Battiston's qualifications, spirit and commitment, I know that we will have in her a wonderful compliment to what we have grown to know and love about Marie and Madeline. (Marie and Heidi will work three days a week each next year, including one overlapping day.)

As shared at the AGM hosted in March, the coming years will be filled with changes. One of them is that we will be creating two Grade 2/3 combined classes for the Fall of 2013. As there are a number of valuable questions that

parents have shared with me, we will be hosting a meeting on **Monday, June 10 at 7:30** in the gym to talk about what will be happening, and anyone who wishes to come is invited to attend.

There will be further NEWSLETTERS posted on the website with "end-of-the-year" news as it is available for publication.

Events that you might want to take part in, and are on the June calendar are:

June 5 Musical at 7:00 PM

June 6 Musical at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

June 7 Professional Day for teachers – no classes

June 12 Thank you Reception for the Grade 7 families

June 13 Welcoming Reception for the incoming Kindy families – 7:00 PM at the PC

June 14 Fun Day

June 18 Arts' Day performances, 9:00 AM; PEC meeting at 6:00 PM

June 21 Grade 7 Farewell Mass & Reception, 7:00 PM

June 23 Yard sale in the parking lot, hosted by the CWL

June 24 Beach Day in the AM

June 26 Closing Mass, thank you's and the beginning of summer holidays!

For those of you new to school, the following 17 school days will fly by -There is so much to celebrate, to give thanks to God for and to look forward to as we continue our mission to provide Catholic education here in Kitsilano. We are the blessed recipients of over 100 years of commitment and we look forward to all that is to come. Thank you for the support that you provide to the teachers, the office staff and myself.

Looking forward to seeing you often in the coming 4 weeks!

Fondly,



Principal